

## **LIST OF PENDING CLAIMS**

The following are the claims presented for examination with this Response being submitted August 17, 2005:

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Claim 1 (original): A unison stringed instrument containing a device for increasing tuning longevity comprising:

a coupling positioned between two or more strings of at least one string unison of said instrument, said coupling enabling the coupled strings to oscillate in unison.

Claim 2 (original): A unison stringed instrument containing a device for increasing tuning longevity comprising:

a coupling positioned around two or more strings of at least one string unison of said instrument, said coupling enabling the coupled strings to oscillate in unison.

Claim 3 (original): A device for increasing tuning longevity of a unison stringed instrument, comprising:

a coupling positioned between two or more strings of at least one string unison of said instrument, said coupling enabling the strings to oscillate substantially in unison.

Claim 4 (original): A device for increasing tuning longevity of a unison stringed instrument, comprising:

a coupling positioned around two or more strings of at least one string unison of said instrument, said coupling enabling the strings to oscillate substantially in unison.

Claim 5 (original): The device of claim 3 or 4, wherein said coupling comprises a high tensile metal.

Claim 6 (original): The device of claim 5, wherein said high tensile metal comprises steel, aluminum or titanium.

Claim 7 (original): The device of claim 3, wherein said coupling is fastened between the strings of said string unison using a tool that is capable of installing the coupling in a manner sufficient for enabling said strings to oscillate in unison at a desired pitch.

Claim 8 (original): The device of claim 4, wherein said coupling is fastened around the strings of said string unison using a crimping tool that is capable of supplying a level of compression sufficient for enabling said strings to oscillate in unison at a desired pitch.

Claim 9 (original): A system for increasing tuning longevity of a unison stringed instrument, comprising:

(a) a plurality of couplings sized and arranged within said unison stringed instrument, each coupling being positioned between two or more strings of a string unison of said instrument; and

(b) an installation tool for expanding the strings to a degree adequate for installation of said couplings.

Claim 10 (original): A system for increasing tuning longevity of a unison stringed instrument, comprising:

(a) a plurality of couplings sized and arranged within said unison stringed instrument, each coupling being positioned around two or more strings of at least one string unison of said instrument; and

(b) a crimping tool having preset crimping compression values suitable for each size of said couplings.

Claim 11 (original): A method for increasing tuning longevity of a unison stringed instrument, comprising:

coupling two or more strings of at least one string unison of said instrument with a coupling device so that the strings oscillate in unison at a desired pitch.

Claim 12 (original): A method for increasing tuning longevity of a unison stringed instrument, comprising:

employing a crimping tool to couple two or more strings of at least one string unison of said instrument with a coupling so that the strings oscillate in unison.

Claim 13 (original): A device for increasing tuning longevity of a unison stringed instrument, said device comprising:

(a) a shaped piece of material having high density and minimal dampening;  
and

(b) a plurality of recesses for receiving two or more strings in unison,  
wherein the size and shape of the device enable coupling of adjacent strings of said instrument, allowing the strings to produce a unified resonant frequency.

Claim 14 (original): A device for increasing tuning longevity of a unison stringed instrument, said device comprising:

an open metal band curved and shaped so that said band compresses when placed over two adjacent strings of said instrument,

wherein the size and shape of the device enable coupling of said adjacent strings, allowing the strings to produce a unified resonant frequency.

Claim 15 (original): A device for increasing tuning longevity of a unison stringed instrument, said device comprising:

a metal clip curved and shaped so that when placed between two adjacent strings of said instrument, said clip exerts opposing forces on the strings,

wherein the size and shape of the device enable coupling of said adjacent strings, allowing the strings to produce a unified resonant frequency.

Claim 16 (original): A device for increasing tuning longevity of a unison stringed instrument, said device comprising:

a first and second flat surface, said first flat surface being positioned above adjacent strings of said instrument, said second flat surface being positioned below said adjacent strings, said surfaces capable of being tightened toward each other,

wherein the size and shape of the device enable coupling of said adjacent strings, allowing the strings to produce a unified resonant frequency.

Claim 17 (original): A method of altering the tone quality of a unison stringed instrument, comprising placing coupling devices between two or more strings of a string unison of said instrument, said device comprising:

an open metal band curved and shaped so that said band compresses when placed over two adjacent strings of said instrument,

wherein the size and shape of the device enable coupling of said adjacent strings, allowing the strings to produce a unified resonant frequency.

Claim 18 (original): A method of altering the tone quality of a unison stringed instrument, comprising limiting the free release of certain overtone frequencies by placing coupling devices between two or more strings of a string unison of said instrument, said device comprising:

an open metal band curved and shaped so that said band compresses when placed over two adjacent strings of said instrument,

wherein the size and shape of the device enable coupling of said adjacent strings, allowing the strings to produce a unified resonant frequency.

Claim 19 (original): The method of claim 17 wherein the ratio of sustain to attack is increased.

Claim 20 (original): A method for maintaining the tuning of a string unison within a musical instrument comprising the steps:

- (a) installing a coupling link for at least two of the stings in the unison along their speaking length;
- (b) installing at least one crimping link in the non-speaking portion of the stings;
- (c) tuning the string unison; and
- (d) sliding one or more of the crimping links in either direction along the non-speaking length to adjust the pitch of the coupled strings.

Claim 21 (withdrawn): A device for the installation of Pitchlock coupling devices comprising a flexible steel strap of sufficient length, wherein the strap includes a notch of sufficient size to accommodate the pitchlock coupling device, and wherein the notch is between 1/16 and 1/2 an inch from the terminal end of the strap.

Claim 22 (withdrawn): A device for installing Pitchlock coupling devices comprising a crimping plier, with two mated jaws, wherein one jaw is substantially convex in cross section, and the other jaw is concave in cross section.

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Applicant believes that all of the presently pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry and careful consideration of this Response and an early indication of allowance is hereby requested. If the Examiner believes there is any issue which could be resolved by a telephone conference or a personal interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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